GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1711
ANSWERED ON:14.03.2002
FOREIGN EXCHANGE EARNINGS AND OUTGO OF ONGC
MOHAN RAWALE

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the total foreign exchange earnings and foreign exchange outgo of ONGC during the last three years;

(b) the steps taken to minimise foreign exchange outgo; and

(c) the foreign exchange debit of ONGC at present and the amount spent on payment of interest every year ?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLUEM & NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINIS
PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR)

(a) The total foreign exchange earnings and foreign exchange outgo of ONGC during the last three years were as follows:-

Year	Foreign Exchange Earnings	Equivalent Rupees in Crores	FE Outgo
2000-01	151.90		5,369.87
1999-00	52.72		3,918.34
1998-99	35.81		5,172.09

(b) The steps taken for reduction of foreign exchange out-go, as far as debt-servicing payments are concerned, are as follows:-

(i) The foreign loan portfolio of ONGC has been consistently brought down over the years through scheduled repayments as well as early repayment of loans, in accordance with the regulatory guidelines of Government of India in this regard. By its sustained efforts, ONGC has been able to prepay foreign loans aggregating Rs. 1360.74 crore during the last three years.As a result, foreign loan portfolio of ONGC has come down from a level of about USD 2,192.9 million equivalent as on 31.3.1998 to USD 868.8 million equivalent as on 31.3.2001. Efforts are being made by ONGC to further bring down the loan portfolio by early repayment of existing loans with the approval of Government of India.

(ii) As a part of prudent and pro-active debt-management strategy, ONGC monitors the developments in international markets and dynamically reviews its loan portfolio to take advantage of any favourable movements in the market situation. As a result of such efforts, ONGC has been able to replace the loans availed earlier with fresh loans at lower financing costs and thereby reducing the Foreign Exchange outgo in the form of interest.

(c) The foreign exchange debt of ONGC as on 31.3.2001 aggregated to Rs. 4049.63 crore.

The amount of interest paid annually during the last three years is given below:-

(Rs/Crore)

2000-01	335.06
1999-00	425.44
1998-99	503.33